

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/985,920
Docket No. A8023

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A fiber optic cable comprising:

a jacket having an interior jacket surface and an exterior jacket surface;

a core element centrally disposed within the jacket; and

a plurality of flexible partitions, wherein each flexible partition extends from said core element to said interior surface of said jacket at an angle that is skewed relative to a surface of said core element, and

wherein said flexible partitions form a plurality of buffer cells, whereby immediately adjacent flexible partitions enclose a volume thereby forming ~~aone of the~~ buffer cellcells,

wherein the one of the buffer cells contains at least one optical fiber, and

wherein said volume of said buffer cell being immediately adjacent to said core element and configured to rotate in a predetermined direction when a radial crushing force is applied to the exterior jacket surface.

2. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein a non-flat ribbon is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

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3. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein a plurality of fiber ribbons are housed in at least one of said buffer cells.
4. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein an optic fiber is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.
5. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein a soft cushion is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.
6. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein a ripcord is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.
7. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein water swellable tape is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.
8. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein a plurality of flat ribbons are housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

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9. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein strength yarn is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

10. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein at least one buffer tube is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

11. (Currently Amended) The fiber optic cable of claim ~~1~~3, wherein the partitions are operably configured to provide protection of the fiber ribbons against crushing forces applied to the fiber optic cable.

12. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein the partitions are color coded.

13. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 1, wherein the skewed partitions deform without breaking or collapsing.

14. (Currently Amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:
a jacket having an interior jacket surface and an exterior jacket surface;
a core element centrally disposed within the jacket; and

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a plurality of flexible partitions, wherein each flexible partition extends from said core element to said interior surface of said jacket at an angle with respect to a radial line extending from said core element, and

wherein said flexible partitions form a plurality of buffer cells,

wherein immediately adjacent flexible partitions enclose a volume thereby forming one of the buffer cells,

wherein the one of the buffer cells contains at least one optical fiber, and said buffer cell volume being immediately adjacent to said core element and configured to rotate in a predetermined direction when a radial crushing force is applied to the exterior jacket surface.

15. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein an arched ribbon is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

16. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein a plurality of fiber ribbons are housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

17. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein an optic fiber is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

18. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein a soft cushion is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

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19. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein a ripcord is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

20. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein water swellable tape is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

21. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein a plurality of flat ribbons are housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

22. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein at least one buffer tube is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

23. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein strength yarn is housed in at least one of said buffer cells.

24. (Currently Amended) The fiber optic cable of claim ~~14~~16, wherein the partitions are operably configured to provide protection of the fiber ribbons against crushing forces applied to the fiber optic cable.

25. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein the partitions are color coded.

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26. (Original) The fiber optic cable of claim 14, wherein the partitions deform without breaking or collapsing.

27. (Currently Amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:
a jacket having an interior jacket surface and an exterior jacket surface;
a core element centrally disposed within the jacket; and
a plurality of flexible partitions extending from said core element to said interior surface of said jacket thereby forming at least one buffer cell,
at least one optic fiber contained within the buffer cell; and
wherein said flexible partitions are configured to rotate in a predetermined direction when a radial crushing force is applied to the exterior jacket surface.

28. (Currently Amended) A fiber optic cable comprising:
a jacket having an interior jacket surface and an exterior jacket surface;
a core element centrally disposed within the jacket; ~~and~~
a plurality of partitions extending from said core element to said interior surface of said jacket, said partition having an interior surface and an exterior surface skewed in a substantially parallel direction,

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wherein a buffer cell is formed by said partitions having opposing interior and exterior surfaces, wherein said opposite surfaces are skewed in the same direction; and

at least one optic fiber contained within the buffer cell.